



Natural Resources Conservation Service
210 Walnut Street, Room 693
Des Moines, IA 50309-2180

February 6, 2009

IOWA BULLETIN NO. IA360-9-10

SUBJECT: PER – BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

PURPOSE: To inform employees about the recognition of Black History Month.

EXPIRATION DATE: September 30, 2010

February is National Black History Month and the 2009 theme is "The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas." Black History Month is a time to reflect on the contributions African Americans have made to American society and the rest of the world.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson, considered to be a pioneer in the study of African American history, is given much of the credit for Black History Month. Disturbed that history textbooks largely ignored America's black population, Woodson took on the challenge of writing black Americans into the nation's history. To do this, Woodson established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. In 1926, he developed Negro History Week. Woodson believed that "the achievements of the Negro properly set forth will crown him as a factor in early human progress and a maker of modern civilization."

As we reflect on the history and contributions of African Americans in this great country we have to say the 2008 election of Barack Obama as the first African American president will mark a milestone in our American history. As stated by our 44th President in his 2009 proclamation of National African American History Month "The history of African Americans is unique and rich, and one that has helped to define what it means to be an American."

At the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) we believe that our effectiveness is a direct result of our trained and diverse work force. As we continue to increase our awareness of cultural and gender differences, the understanding and appreciation of diversity will provide a spirit of unification to achieve a common goal – more conservation on the land.

During this month, the Black Emphasis Program Manager (BEPM) will focus on the great history and contributions of Blacks here in our great state. This will be done by a series of emails being sent out. Also in observance of Black History Month, each office should display this year's poster, attached for your convenience, in a prominent location to commemorate the role of Blacks in our country.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Shaffer Ridgeway, Black Emphasis Program Manager, at (319) 296-3262.

/s/Richard Sims
State Conservationist

Attachment

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